WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A connector, comprising:

a housing (11) with cavities (12) for accommodating terminal fittings (T), the cavities (12) being arranged over a longer distance in a widthwise direction (WD) than in height direction (HD), a retainer mount hole (16) formed in the housing (11) and communicating with the cavities (12), a recess (14) formed in a outer surface of the housing (11) at an intermediate position along the widthwise direction (WD), the recess (14) having opposite side surfaces (14S), the cavities (12) being arranged at fewer stages in widthwise areas of the housing (11) corresponding to the recess (14) than in other neighboring areas;

a lock arm (13) formed in the recess (14) of the housing (11) for locking the connector (10) and a mating connector together;

a retainer (21) mountable into the retainer mount hole (16) for movement from a first position where insertion of the terminal fittings (T) into the cavities (12) is permitted to a second position where the terminal fittings (T) are locked in the cavities (12), the retainer (21) having an intermediate portion (24) overlapping the opposite side surfaces (14S) of the recess (14) when the retainer (21) is at the second position;

locking means (17; 23a) at opposite sides (23) of the retainer (21) for locking the retainer (21) at the second position; and

engaging means (28; 28a, 28b) for locking the intermediate portion (24) of the retainer (21) to the side surfaces (14S) of the recess (14).

2. The connector of claim 1, wherein the retainer (21) includes partition walls (25, 25A) insertable between the respective cavities (12) on opposite sides of the intermediate portion (24).

3. The connector of claim 1, wherein the retainer mount hole (16) is in a bottom surface of the housing (11) and extends in the widthwise direction (WD).

4. The connector of claim 3, wherein the second position is reached by inserting the retainer (21) deeper in a mounting direction (MD) so that locking sections (27) of the retainer (21) hold the terminal fittings (T).

5. The connector of claim 3, wherein the lock arm (13) is at a widthwise middle position on the upper surface of the housing (11).

6. The connector of claim 3, wherein the recess (14) is formed in an upper surface of the housing (11) and extends toward the bottom surface of the housing (11).

7. The connector of claim 1, wherein the engaging means (28; 28a, 28b) include locking projections (28a) on partition walls (25A) of the intermediate portion (14) and slits (28b) in the opposite sides (14S) of the recess (14), the locking projections (28a) being resiliently engaged with the slits (28b) when the retainer (21) is at the second position.

8. The connector of claim 7, wherein the slits (28b) communicate the retainer mount hole (16) and clearances (14a) being defined between the lock arm (13) and the side surfaces (14S).

9. The connector of claim 1, wherein the retainer (21) has a plurality of partition walls (25) coupled into a lattice shape by coupling plates (26) at substantially opposite sides.

10. A connector, comprising:

a housing (11) with opposite front and rear ends, opposite top and bottom surfaces and opposite first and second sides, a recess (14) formed in the top surface of the housing (11), a first plurality of cavities (12) between the recess (14) and the first side of the housing (11) and a second plurality of cavities (12) between the recess (14) and the second side of the housing (11), the cavities (12) extending between the front and rear ends of the housing (11) and being configured for accommodating terminal fittings (T), a retainer mount hole (16) formed in the bottom surface of the housing (11) and communicating with the cavities (12), first and second engaging portions (17) formed at the first and second sides of the housing (11) and aligned with the retainer mount hole (16), at least one recess lock (28b) formed at the recess (14) and aligned with the retainer mount hole (16);

a lock arm (13) formed in the recess (14) of the housing (11) for locking the connector (10) and a mating connector together;

a retainer (21) mounted in the retainer mount hole (16) for movement from a first position where insertion of the terminal fittings (T) into the cavities (12) is permitted to a second position where the terminal fittings (T) are locked in the cavities (12), first and second side locks (23a) at opposite sides (23) of the retainer (21) for engaging the first and second engaging portions (17) when the retainer (21) at the second position, an intermediate portion (24) nesting over the recess (14) when the retainer (21) is at the second position, the intermediate portion (24) having at least one intermediate lock (28a) for engaging the recess lock (28b) when the retainer (21) is at the second position.

11. The connector of claim 10, wherein the housing (11) has two retainer locks (28b) and the retainer (21) has two intermediate locks (28a).

12. The connector of claim 11, wherein the recess locks (28b) are slots formed in side surfaces (14S) defining the recess (14).

13. The connector of claim 12, wherein the intermediate locks (28a) are projections that engage in the slots when the retainer (21) is in the second position.

14. The connector of claim 13, wherein the first and second pluralities of cavities (12) are substantially equal in number.

15. The connector of claim 14, wherein the first and second pluralities of cavities (12) define an upper stage of cavities (12), the housing (11) further comprising a lower stage of cavities (12) between the bottom surface and the housing (11) and both the upper stage of cavities (12) and the recess (14).

16. The connector of claim 10, wherein the lock arm (13) is formed unitarily with the housing (11).